Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend claims 3 and 16 as follows:

1. (Original) A quick change shock absorber, comprising:

a housing having a smooth, outer periphery and a blind bore adaptable to hold a fluid;

a piston slidably disposed within said bore of said housing and engageable with a driver for movement between an extended position, wherein said piston has a portion extending outwardly from said housing, and a retracted position, wherein said piston is disposed within said housing; and

said outer periphery of said housing receivable by a fixture having a bore for complementarily receiving said outer periphery of said housing, wherein the friction between said outer periphery of said housing and said fixture constitutes a snug fit for quick change removal of said housing from said fixture.

2. (Original) The quick change shock absorber stated in claim 1, further comprising:

said outer periphery of said housing having a two step diameter.

3. (Currently Amended) The quick change shock absorber stated in claim 1, further comprising:

said outer periphery of said housing having a recess formed therein; and

a flexible retaining ring housed within said recess to provide the proper ~~fiction~~ friction for constituting said snug fit.

4. (Original) The quick change shock absorber stated in claim 1, wherein said piston further comprises:

a piston rod having a first end slidably disposed within said housing;

a piston head retainer connected to said first end of said piston rod and having an aperture extending therethrough; and

a piston head coaxially aligned with said piston rod and captured between said piston head retainer and a shoulder of said piston rod for movement between said retracted position and said extended position.

5. (Original) The quick change shock absorber stated in claim 4, further comprising:

a spring disposed within said housing between an end of said blind bore and said piston head retainer for biasing said piston rod toward said extended position.

6. (Original) The quick change shock absorber stated in claim 4, further comprising:

said piston head engaging said shoulder of said piston rod when said piston rod is moving toward said retracted position to allow fluid to flow through said aperture in said piston head retainer and around the periphery of said piston head retainer; and said piston head engaging said piston head retainer when said piston rod is moving toward said extended position to limit the flow of said fluid through said aperture in said piston head retainer.

7. (Original) A quick change shock absorber, comprising:

a substantially cylindrical housing having a smooth, outer periphery and a blind bore adapted to receive a fluid;

a piston slidably disposed within said bore of said housing and engageable with a driver for movement between an extended position, wherein said piston has a portion extending outward from said housing, and a retracted position, wherein said piston is disposed within said housing;

said outer periphery of said housing having an annular recess formed therein, and a flexible retaining ring seated within said recess; and

said outer periphery of said housing receivable by a fixture having a bore for complementarily receiving said outer periphery of said housing, wherein the friction between said flexible retaining ring and said fixture constitutes a snug fit for quick change removal of said housing from said fixture.

8. (Original) The quick change shock absorber stated in claim 7, further comprising:

said outer periphery of said housing and said bore of said fixture each having a two step diameter for complementarily engaging one another.

9. (Original) The quick change shock absorber stated in claim 7, further comprising:

said housing having an annular slot formed in said blind bore; and

a removable snap ring seated within said slot and abutting said piston for securing said piston within said blind bore of said housing.

10. (Original) The quick change shock absorber stated in claim 7, further comprising:

said housing having an aperture extending through a wall of said housing and communicating with said blind bore of said housing; and

a removable plug disposed within said aperture for accessing said blind bore for communicating said fluid to and from said blind bore.

11. (Original) The quick change shock absorber stated in claim 7, wherein said piston further comprises:

a piston rod having a first end slidably disposed within said housing;

a piston head retainer connected to said first end of said piston rod and having an aperture extending therethrough; and

a piston head coaxially aligned with said piston rod and captured between said piston head and a shoulder of said piston rod for movement between a retracted position, wherein said piston rod is fully withdrawn into said housing, and an extended position, wherein said piston rod is extended outwardly from said housing.

12. (Original) The quick change shock absorber stated in claim 11, further comprising:

a compression spring disposed within said housing between an end of said blind bore and said piston head retainer for biasing said piston rod to said extended position.

13. (Original) The quick change shock absorber stated in claim 11, further comprising:

a bearing member disposed within said housing for slidably supporting said piston rod.

14. (Original) The quick change shock absorber stated in claim 11, further comprising:

said piston head engaging said shoulder of said piston rod when said piston rod is moving toward said retracted position to allow fluid to flow through said aperture in said piston head retainer and around the periphery of said piston head retainer; and

said piston head engaging said piston head retainer when said piston rod is moving toward said extended position to limit the flow of said fluid through said aperture in said piston head retainer.

15. (Original) The quick change shock absorber stated in claim 7, further comprising:

an inner, substantially cylindrical wall disposed within said bore of said housing for housing a portion of said piston, and said cylindrical wall coaxially aligned with said housing for defining a fluid reservoir between said housing and said cylindrical wall; and

said cylindrical wall having at least one aperture therein for allowing said fluid to communicate between said fluid reservoir and an area within said cylindrical wall.

16. (Currently Amended) A quick change shock absorber, comprising:

a substantially cylindrical housing having a smooth, outer periphery and a blind bore adaptable to receive a fluid;

a piston slidably disposed within said bore of said housing and engageable with a driver for movement between an extended position, wherein said piston has a portion extending outward from said housing, and a retracted position, wherein said piston is disposed within said housing;

said outer periphery of said housing having a two step diameter wherein ~~the~~ a larger diameter of said two step diameter provides an annular recess formed therein and a flexible retaining ring seated within said recess; and

said outer periphery of said housing receivable by a fixture having a two step diameter bore for complementarily receiving said outer periphery of said housing wherein the friction between said flexible retaining ring and said fixture constitutes a snug fit for quick change removal of said housing from said fixture.

17. (Original) The quick change shock absorber stated in claim 16, further comprising:

said housing having an annular slot formed in said blind bore; and

a removable snap ring seated within said slot and abutting said piston for securing said piston within said blind bore of said housing.

18. (Original) The quick change shock absorber stated in claim 16, further comprising:

said housing having an aperture extending through a wall of said housing and communicating with said blind bore of said housing; and

a removable plug disposed within said aperture for accessing said blind bore for communicating said fluid to and from said blind bore.

19. (Original) A quick change shock absorber stated in claim 16, wherein said piston further comprises:

a piston rod having a first end slidably disposed within said housing;

a piston head retainer connected to said first end of said piston rod and having an aperture extending therethrough; and

a piston head coaxially aligned with said piston rod and captured between said piston head and a shoulder of said piston rod for movement between a retracted position, wherein said piston rod is fully withdrawn within said housing, and an extended position, wherein said piston rod extends from said housing.

20. (Original) The quick change shock absorber stated in claim 19, further comprising:

a compression spring disposed within said housing between an end of said blind bore and said piston head retainer for biasing said piston rod toward said extended position.

21. (Original) The quick change shock absorber stated in claim 19, further comprising:

a bearing member disposed within said housing for slidably supporting said piston rod.

22. (Original) The quick change shock absorber stated in claim 19, further comprising:

said piston head engaging said shoulder of said piston rod when said piston rod is moving toward said retracted position to allow fluid to flow through said aperture in said piston head retainer and around a periphery of said piston head retainer;

said piston head engaging said piston head retainer when said piston rod is moving toward an extended position to limit the flow of said fluid through said aperture in said piston head retainer.

23. (Original) The quick change shock absorber stated in claim 16, further comprising:

an inner, substantially cylindrical wall disposed within said bore of said housing for housing a portion of said piston, and said cylindrical wall coaxially aligned within said housing for defining a fluid reservoir between said housing and said cylindrical wall wherein said piston is housed within said housing; and

said cylindrical wall having a plurality of apertures for allowing said fluid to communicate between said fluid reservoir and from within said cylindrical wall.